TRENDS

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9/2/88

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 16, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 10, totaled 17.2 billion ton-miles, up 4.6 percent from the 16.4 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Both weeks included the Labor Day holiday.

Cumulative volume for the first 36 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 688.0 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.5 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended September 10 totaled 390,533, up 1.9 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 13.3 percent below the preceding non-holiday week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 2.2 percent in the East, and 1.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings increased by 6,033 cars (5.3 percent); loadings of chemicals and allied products were up 1,286 cars (5.5 percent); but grain was down 4,321 cars (15.3 percent). Nineteen of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding non-holiday week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended September 3 totaled 119,054 trailers and/or containers, up 6.5 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 35 weeks of the year was 3,831,005 trailers and/or containers, up 5.7 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/10/88:

	Loadings in Week ended September 10, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,867	D	4,321	15.3	D	2,108	8.1
Other farm products	2,375	D	785	24.8	I	59	2.5
Metallic ores	18,481	I	829	4.7	D	2,313	11.1
Coal	120,327	I	6,033	5.3	D	14,911	11.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,612	I	1,077	7.4	D	3,613	18.8
Nonmetallic minerals	9,526	I	63	0.7	D	1,620	14.5
Grain mill products	9,634	I	99	1.0	D	2,095	17.9
Food and kindred products	9,277	D	241	2.5	D	1,921	17.2
Primary forest products	8,440	D	460	5.2	D	1,846	17.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,666	D	1,194	17.4	D	1,642	22.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,970	I	266	2.3	D	717	5.7
Chemicals and allied products	24,798	I	1,286	5.5	D	3,434	12.2
Petroleum products	4,545	D	77	1.7	D	696	13.3
Stone, clay and glass products	10,154	D	293	2.8	D	1,375	11.9
Coke	5,568	I	392	7.6	D	267	4.6
Metals and products	8,980	I	362	4.2	D	2,077	18.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,874	I	903	5.7	D	2,600	13.4
Waste and scrap materials	7,871	I	63	0.8	D	2,274	22.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	1,986	D	582	22.7	D	600	23.2
All other carloads	74,582	I	3,754	5.3	D	13,689	15.5
Total Cars Loaded	390,533	I	7,174	1.9	D	59,739	13.3
Corresponding week of 1987	383,359						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (36 weeks)	15,172,308	14,416,631	I 5.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
35 weeks ended September 3	670.8r	623.8	I 7.5
Week ended September 10	17.2	16.4	I 4.6
36 Weeks cumulative	688.0	640.3	I 7.5

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